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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

25th Apr.—The Royal Air Force bombed the German naval bases of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven. An enemy supply ship of 16,000 tons was sunk off the Dutch coast.

Nazi aircraft raided an area in Southern England.

26th Apr.—"It is a tragedy, but they (the Germans) will get it back threefold," said Mr. Churchill after visiting Manchester which was raided by the German air force. The Home Secretary announced a vast improvement in Britain's fire-fighting forces and equipment. Conscription of men for fire-fighting duties was announced in London.

The Royal Air Force again raided Kiel and scored direct hits on supply ships in Rotterdam.

27th Apr.—The Royal Air Force hammered Hamburg with the new type of devastating bombs and also raided Emden, Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven, Le Havre (in France) in Ijmuiden (Holland).

Merseyside was raided by German bombers but the attack was not on a heavy scale.

28th Apr.—The Royal Air Force carried a daring daylight raid on Emden and also bombed Cologne, Ijmuiden and Dekody (Holland). The German communiqué admitted casualties and damage in a Cologne factory.

Enemy destroyers escorting a convoy were hit by the Royal Air Force off the Dutch coast.

The German air force raided Portsmouth where hospitals were hit.

29th Apr.—The Royal Air Force attacked the German battle-cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in the docks at Brest.

The German air force concentrated its attack on Plymouth.

30th Apr.—Plymouth was again raided by the German air force and there were many civilian casualties. Eight German bombers were shot down over England.

Royal Air Force bombers raided Mannheim, the important German railway centre; set oil stores in Rotterdam on fire; and attacked enemy supply ships off the Belgian coast.

1st May.—For the fifth night in nine, Plymouth endured the fury of the German night bombers.

British bombers attacked Berlin, Hamburg and the naval base of Kiel.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

25th Apr.—The British forces at Tobruk repulsed an enemy attack on the outer defences.

Viscount Gort was appointed Governor of Gibraltar.

The British Admiralty announced new minefields in the Mediterranean.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander of the Australian Imperial Forces, was appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Middle East.

The Royal Air Force raided Tripoli and Benghazi in Lybia as well as Sicily and the Dodecanese Islands.

26th Apr.—It was announced that Fort Mota in Abyssinia had been captured by the Empire forces.

27th Apr.—Enemy forces crossed the Egyptian frontier at several places in the Sollum area.

28th Apr.—The British Imperial Forces captured Dessie, one of the last centres of Italian resistance in Abyssinia.

The Axis troops took the Egyptian frontier port of Sollum but British armoured divisions soon established contact with the enemy.

The Royal Air Force machine-gunned a number of German troop-carrying planes at Benina aerodrome near Benghazi.

29th Apr.—The Axis thrust in Egypt was halted at Sollum.

It was announced that 5,500, Italians and 2,500 colonials were taken prisoner at Dessie.

30th Apr.—British Imperial Forces captured the Abyssinian town of Sokota. The Royal Air Force raided Benina, Derna and Benghazi.

King Faruk of Egypt conferred with the leaders of parties, possibly with a view to the formation of a Coalition Government.

1st May.—British forces converged on the Italian defensive position in the region of Amba Alagi. After fierce fighting the Germans penetrated the outer defences of Tobruk. British naval units successfully bombarded enemy troops and supplies in the El Gayala area in Libya.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

25th Apr.—Speeches by Mr. Cordell Hull and Col. Knox foreshadowed United States' decision to convoy supply ships to Britain. President Roosevelt stated that United States Neutrality Patrols would operate " as far into the waters of the seven seas as might be necessary," warning British ships of any prowling raider. He also strongly criticised " appeasers " like Col. Lindbergh.

26th Apr.—The Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee, on which 21 American Republics are represented, recommended the seizure of 160 foreign ships lying idle in ports on the American continent.

27th Apr.—Mr. Winston Churchill, in a broadcast, said " in order to win this war, Hitler must either conquer this Island by invasion or cut the ocean life-line which joins us with the United States."

28th Apr.—It was announced that Prof. J. M. Keynes, member of the British Economic Council, would visit Washington to confer with the United States Administration and the British Supply Council on the operation of the Lease and Lend Act and other related matters.

Col. Lindbergh gave up his commission in the United States Air Corps Reserve as a sequel to Mr. Roosevelt's condemnation of his attitude.

29th Apr.—President Roosevelt stated that United States warships might enter combat zones, if necessary, in the interests of the defence of the Western Hemisphere.

30th Apr.—Col. Knox said that United States expected to build substantial numbers of high-speed mosquito-boats for Britain.

1st May.—President Roosevelt asked the United States Maritime Commission for at least two million tons of merchant shipping to be used to supply all-out aid to the Democracies. The United States Senate passed the 3,400 million dollars Two-Ocean Navy Bill and send it to White House for signature. It was stated by a spokesman of the American aircraft industry that 18,000 war planes would be produced this year and 30,000 in 1942. (Nearly half of these will go to Britain.)

GREECE AND ITALY

25th Apr.—The Germans occupied the Greek islands of Lemnos and Samothrace. German bombers raided Corinth and other towns in Southern Greece and sank two Greek hospital ships.

H.M. the King, in an Anzac Day message, paid a tribute to the valour of the Empire and Allied troops in Greece.

26th Apr.—The Germans advanced to within thirty miles of Athens. The Greek cabinet met at Crete and instructed all Greek officials to remain at their posts in the mainland.

27th Apr.—The German army entered Athens. A great part of the British troops and equipment had been safely evacuated from Greece for service in North Africa.

28th Apr.—" We shall soon be back in Athens," said the Greek Premier, M. Tsouderos, in a speech at Canea in the island of Crete (which, he said, now formed with Britain the " last but worthy ramparts of the free people of Europe.")

President Roosevelt ordered the immediate " freezing " of Greek credits and cash in the United States in order to deny Axis agents access to them.

30th Apr.—The Germans claimed to have reached the south coast of the Peloponnesus. It was announced that 80 per cent of British troops had already been safely evacuated from Greece.

The Germans set up a puppet Government in Athens under General Tsolakiglu, a renegade army Commander.

1st May.—The Italians claimed the occupation of the Ionian Islands, of Caphalonia, Zante and Lenkas.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

25th Apr.—Yugoslav planes and troops arrived in the Middle East to join the Allied forces against the Axis.

A report stated that British troops had arrived at Mosul (in Iraq) to guard the oil-fields.

It was announced that the United States would continue to recognize the Yugoslav refugee Government.

26th Apr.—President Ineunu of Turkey left Ankara for Smyrna on a tour of inspection of the Turkish coast facing the Greek islands threatened by Germans. A general evacuation of Istanbul by civilians was ordered.

27th Apr.—The British Ambassador in Baghdad called on the Iraqi Ministers.

29th Apr.—A new Turko-German trade pact was ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Turkey agreeing to sell tobacco in exchange for machinery.

1st May.—The Yugoslav submarine Nebojsea and two Yugoslav motor torpedo-boats arrived safely at a British port.

Despite the Iraq Government's protest against the landing of further contingents of British troops at Basra, it was reported in London that more troops had arrived in Basra without any incident.

SHIPPING

28th Apr.—The Greek Minister in Cairo revealed that the entire merchant fleet of Greece, consisting of million tons of shipping, had been placed at the disposal of the British Government and that the Greek Air Force was continuing the struggle against the Axis powers.

1st May.—The U.S. Maritime Commission placed fifty oil tankers in special service to aid Britain.

THE FAR EAST

25th Apr.—Both the U.S.S.R. and Japan ratified the Neutrality Pact reached recently at Moscow.

26th Apr.—Several pro and anti-Japanese terrorist outrages were reported in Shanghai.

27th Apr.—An exchange of greetings between Mr. Matsuoka and MM. Stalin and Molotov took place after the Neutrality Pact had been ratified.

The Chinese launched vigorous counter-attacks in the Provinces of Chekiang, Fukien and Hupeh. They recaptured the ports of Taichow and Changlo.

28th Apr.—The Japanese Minister in Melbourne said that Japan had no designs on Australia. He had a talk with the Australian Labour Leader, Mr. Curtin.

29th Apr.—Mr. James Roosevelt, eldest son of the United States President, arrived in Chungking with a letter from his father to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek.

30th Apr.—Extensive Japanese aerial activity was reported over China. Japanese naval forces made further landings on the South China coast.

The British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East said that any possible opponents "would be in for a pretty squeaky time if they attacked Malaya."

1st May.—The Japanese occupied the port of Kiatze.

VICHY

26th Apr.—Admiral Darlan reported to the Vichy Cabinet on his visit to occupied France. The Admiral had a long conversation with the Spanish Ambassador in Vichy.

27th Apr.—Disorders occurred in various towns in Syria; the police opened fire on demonstrators.

Vichy reported the massing of Free French forces on the southern border of French Somaliland and the French Government said "There can be no question of our colony entering into negotiations with the dissident French." Free French circles in London, however, stated that the Vichy report was intended to cover up growing public feeling in Somaliland in favour of General de Gaulle.

29th Apr.—The United States Ambassador was reported to have warned Marshal Petain that the Vichy Government must stay neutral and avoid a display of hostility towards Britain if they hoped to receive further food supplies from America.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

27th Apr.—A fine of a million francs was imposed on the Channel Port of Dieppe by the German authorities as a sequel to demonstrations by a picture-house audience against Hitler and Mussolini.

30th Apr.—Dr. Benes declared in an interview that Sudetanland would again become part of Czechoslovakia in the peace settlement after the war. "The Germans must go back to the old borders—the borders before the invasion of Austria."

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.)

26th Apr.—Reports of the arrival in Spain of Rudolph Hess, the Deputy of Hitler, caused considerable speculation.

Germany was said to be bringing pressure to bear on Spain and Portugal to fall in with Axis plans.

28th Apr.—The Rome Radio broadcast a threat to Switzerland against allowing anti-Italian expressions of sentiment.

29th Apr.—Russia was stated to be speeding up her defences all along her western frontier as a counter to new German concentrations on the German-Soviet frontier in Poland.

The President of Portugal, Dr. Salazar, said: "There exist certain absolute values in life to which everything should be sacrificed and among them are the dignity of a nation, freedom, independence and territorial integrity."

30th Apr.—The Moscow Radio reported that 12,000 German troops had arrived in the Finnish port of Abo.

1st May.—Finnish circles said that the report of the landing of German troops had been much exaggerated and that the troops were merely on the way to Narvik in German-occupied Norway.

Russia was reported to be taking extensive steps to stiffen the already strong Soviet forces in the Ukraine, Poland and Estonia. These steps included the despatch of 25 army divisions to join the 40 already stationed there and the massing of aviation materials. The Soviet Defence Commissar, in a May-day Order of the Day, urged the need for the "permanent mobilization of the Red Army."

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 22nd April 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over enemy coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 16, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raid on naval and seaplane base on Heligoland Island.	3 day fighters (1 pilot safe).	1 day fighter.
	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter raid on Berck-sur-mer (France). R.A.F. night bomber raids on Bremen (ship-building yard, factories); docks and factories at Cuxhaven and Wesermunde; naval bases at Wilhelmshaven and Brest; invasion base at Boulogne.	2 night bombers.	
April 17, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter raid on Cherbourg (naval base, merchant shipping). R.A.F. night bomber raids on Berlin (Government blocks in Wilhelmstrasse, other targets); Cologne and other centres in N.-W. Germany, oil stores at Rotterdam; other objectives in Holland.	8 night bombers.	2 night fighters.
April 18, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off Norwegian coast and Heligoland Is. (2 merchantmen, 1 naval escort vessel sunk; 2 merchantmen left sinking).	8 day bombers.	..
April 19, Saturday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off Dutch coast (2 merchantmen left sinking, 2 damaged). R.A.F. day fighter sweep over Channel and N. France.	1 day fighter.	..
April 20, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off Norwegian and Dutch coasts (1 merchantman left sinking). R.A.F. night bomber raids on Cologne; Dusseldorf; Aachen; aerodromes in Germany and occupied territory, including Caen; oil stores at Rotterdam; naval base at Brest; invasion bases at Dunkirk and Ostend.	3 night bombers.	..
April 21, Monday.	R.A.F. night bomber raid on invasion base at Le Havre. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	*Nil.*	1 night bomber.
April 22, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off Norwegian coast (1 merchantman and 1 mines-sweeper hit). R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at Brest (battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*).	1 bomber.	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 22nd April 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy raids (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European Waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 16	Nil.	6 night bombers.
April 17	Nil.	2 day fighter-bombers. 3 night bombers.
April 18	Nil.	1 day bomber (crashed in Eire).
April 19	Nil.	2 night bombers.
April 20	Nil.	2 day fighters.
April 21	Nil.	2 night bombers.
April 22	Nil.	1 day bomber. 1 night bomber.

GERMAN JUSTICE IN POLAND

The Manchester Guardian Weekly writes :

A report of the Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice published in "Deutsche Justiz" gives an interesting account of the administration of justice in German-occupied Poland. Three thousand jurists have been sent from Germany, but this number is apparently too small for the volume of work thrown on the courts, so regulations are in force under which administrative punishment can be imposed by a great many petty authorities. Leaders of the S.S. and police may send Poles to prison for three months. Thus there is no pretence that justice must be administered by persons with some judicial training or that justice should be in the hands of independent authorities. Presumably if Germany could establish her "new order" these methods would be applied all over Europe, for it is hardly likely that Germany could supply enough trained lawyers to meet the demands of a continent. When Napolean reorganized the Government of Germany, the introduction of French law brought in some States a great improvement; torture, for example, was abolished and privileges of various kinds disappeared. H. A. L. Fisher said in his study of the subject that certain great benefits flowed from French rule, among them "the sharp distinction between judicial and executive functions, the introduction of oral pleadings and the jury, and the stricter definition of judicial competence." The Nazi revolution would set up the worst kind of tyranny, giving to the Gestapo the powers of the magistrate.

STORMY WEATHER

"He may carry havoc into the Balkan States, he may tear great provinces out of Russia, he may march to the gates of India, but all this will avail him nothing." Mr. Churchill, Feb. 9, 1941.

The Battle of the Mediterranean is one and indivisible. It is the meeting ground of the German army, backed by the resources of an enslaved and despoiled Europe, and the armies of the British Commonwealth and their friends, backed by the growing might of American war production.

Disraeli whose foresight gave that Commonwealth predominant interest in the Suez Canal, now defended against a second Axis attempt, said in a speech in 1875 :—

"Britain is not a country that, when she enters on a campaign, has to ask herself whether she can support a second or a third campaign. She enters into a campaign which she will not terminate till right is done."

"England has always had the armament that she needed. She always fought with those weapons which were necessary for success . . Tenacity in her Government, as well as in the spirit of the broad masses, enables her to carry through to victory any struggle that she once enters upon, no matter how long such a struggle may last or how great the sacrifice that may be necessary, or what the means that have to be employed; and all this even though the actual military equipment at hand may be utterly inadequate when compared with that of other nations". —*Hitler, in Mein Kampf.*

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

This week has seen a notable broadcast to the Empire by Mr. Churchill. The British Prime Minister gave a frank survey of the war position and struck a soberly optimistic note. Defending the despatch of troops to help Greece as a matter of honour, he said " The fortunes of war are fickle and change, but an act of shame would deprive us of the respect we now enjoy throughout the world and would sap the vitals of our strength ".

The following are important points in Mr. Churchill's broadcast :—

" In mortal peril, Greece turned to us for succour, and we could not say them nay. There are rules against that kind of thing and to break them would be fatal to our honour, to the honour of the British Empire, without which we could neither hope nor deserve to win.

" It happened that the divisions available as the best suited for the task in Greece were from New Zealand and Australia and only about half the troops who took part came from the Mother country. German propaganda is trying to make bad blood between Britain and Australia over this, but I shall leave it to Australia to deal with that taunt.

" Never in our long history have we been held in such admiration and regard across the Atlantic. In the long run, the action of the United States will be dictated not by methodical calculations of profit and loss but by moral sentiment.

" Nothing that is happening now is comparable in gravity to what we passed through last year. Nothing that can happen in the East is comparable with what is happening in the West.

" We must now expect the war in the Mediterranean to become more fierce, varied and widespread.

" In order to win this war Hitler must either conquer this Island by invasion or cut the ocean life-line which joins us with the United States.

" The President and the Congress of the United States of America . . . have passed legislation and turned a large part of their gigantic industries to making the ammunition we need. They have given us valuable assistance. I cannot believe that they will allow the effort to which they have put themselves to be frustrated and the products of their skill and labour sunk to the bottom of the sea."

THE MIDDLE EAST CAMPAIGN

The German forces, as was only to be expected after the surrender of the Greek Army of the Epirus, have now occupied Athens and reached the south coast of Peloponnesus. They have also set up a puppet government in Athens under a renegade Greek Commander, but the Greek Cabinet meeting in Crete, has reaffirmed its determination to continue the war. The Greek Air Force is fighting side by side with the British; and the entire merchant fleet of Greece, consisting of millions of tons of shipping, has been placed at the disposal of Britain. " We shall soon be back in Athens " said the Greek Premier, Mr. Tsouderos, in a speech at Canea (in Crete), adding that the island of Crete now formed with Britain " the last but worthy ramparts of the free people of Europe ".

Meanwhile a great part of the British and Empire troops and their equipment has already been evacuated from Greece for service in North Africa. They will help the British Army of the Nile to check the Axis advance into Egypt. The frontier post of Sollum has, of course, fallen to the enemy but it was not seriously defended and no special importance should be attached to its relinquishment by the British forces. The situation around Sollum is roughly the same as before General Wavell's counter-attack when the Italians were advancing last year into Egypt. British armoured divisions now bar the way to further German advance.

The British garrison at Tobruk beat off more German attacks with heavy losses to the enemy before the latter could penetrate the outer defences of the fort. A severe battle is raging round the town. The Royal Air Force is taking toll of German troop concentrations, transport and supplies by a series of raids on Tripoli, Benghazi, Derna and other towns and harbours in Libya.

And the British Imperial forces have captured Dessie, one of the last Italian strongholds in Abyssinia, taking 5,500 Italian and 2,500 colonial prisoners and quantities of

war material. It will only be a matter of days before the last Italian soldier in Abyssinia lays down his arms. A greater part of the country has already returned to the administration of Emperor Haile Selassie, who is having British assistance to restore peace and prosperity to his people.

HITLER'S STRATEGY

Side by side with the striking successes of Germany, diplomatic and military, in the Balkans, Hitler has again commenced his notorious 'war of nerves' with France, Spain, Portugal, Syria, Turkey and Russia. His strategy is always to cajole, then, if that does not succeed, to threaten and if he fails there, as a last resort, to invade. Flushed by his *blitz* in the Balkans, he has been aptly described as desiring to 'cash in' as quickly as possible on his successes. He has recalled his ambassadors in Moscow and Ankara for consultation, in order that he may know at first hand what the attitude of both countries will be about the Battle of Egypt. The Balkan offensive should be accompanied by supplementary action in the Western Mediterranean and North Africa. His apparent desire is to close the Western Mediterranean, establish air and submarine bases to harass means of communication from south round the Cape of Good Hope and South America. A German spokesman said the other day that the attack on Gibraltar cannot be long delayed and must take place by land and Hitler is further insistent that every country in Europe must take the part assigned to it by him in a united Europe under German domination.

HOW IT WORKS

Pressure on the Vichy Government is increasing day by day. It is said that the demands are many, passage of troops through France, handing over the French Fleet and naval bases, increased industrial output in unoccupied France for Germany, virtual control over French Morocco, where German tourists are at large; in return, it is said Hitler may think of reducing the payments now given by the Vichy Government for German occupation, perhaps also release a certain proportion of the two million French prisoners in concentration camps and rectify the frontier dividing occupied and unoccupied France. The 'war of nerves' includes setting up and inciting of the Reassemblement Nationale Populare, an anti-Vichy organization inspired by Nazis. So great has become the danger to the Petain Government from this body that, it is stated, elaborate precautions have been taken in Vichy against any rising by pro-Laval forces. The part played by Admiral Darlan is rather suspicious. Many reports are current of the help he is actually affording Germany. It is known that at the eleventh hour Marshal Petain cancelled Admiral Darlan's order that the battleship Dunquerque should be moved from its place. There are reports that under Admiral Darlan's orders big stores of petrol in Tunis have been handed over to Germany and Italy, and that tanks have been transferred and ships lent for the transport of troops from one side of the Mediterranean to the other. The position in French Morocco is getting serious owing to the infilteration of German tourists, much against the desire of the native inhabitants, and to crown all, General Weygand's position is stated to be somewhat shaky. Hitler apparently considers his presence in North Africa to be an obstacle to his projects. He has, however, to recken, with the United States, whose Ambassador is reported to have warned Marshal Petain against showing any hostility to Britain if Vichy desired further food supplies from America.

According to newspaper reports Franco of Spain is being compelled by his whilom friend and helper, Hitler to allow passage of troops to Gibraltar and grant bases to Germany. Is it possible for Franco to refuse any longer Hitler's demands? That is the question which is now being asked. There is already a large body of Germans in various key positions in Spain so that the conversion of Spain into a Teutonic vassal country would not be difficult to bring about. Rudolf Hess, the envoy of Hitler, is now in that country and he may play upon the national sentiments of Spain in regard to Gibraltar. From cajolery Hitler has now passed on, it is said, to threats.

It is stated that in regard to Portugal, the horizon is darkening. Berlin radio is holding out significant threats to Portugal, alleging that Britain intends to establish herself in that country—another illustration of Hitler's base and unscrupulous strategy. Will Portugal be compelled to revise her pact with Britain? Her President has just declared that "there exist certain absolute values in life to which every thing should be sacrificed and among them are the dignity of a nation, freedom, independence and territorial integrity."

Nazi tourists from Iraq to Syria are in contact with Syrian Autonomist Party.

Lastly, Turkey, which apparently has so far refused to walk into Hitler's parlour, is about to be threatened. Reports suggest that Turkey wants an understanding with the Soviet Government with regard to Germany's designs, but she is firm in her friendship with Britain and is determined to resist aggression. So far as Russia is concerned, she has put the Far-Eastern question "on ice" for the purpose of concentrating her attention on the west. Russia has always put one question aside for a time in order to concentrate on another more effectively and that is the significance of the Soviet-Japanese Pact.

So far as Gibraltar is concerned, one of the next objectives of Hitler, that impenetrable rock, it is stated, is ready for a seige whether it comes from land, sea or air. Its defences have been strengthened and are being added to every day. Its northern front is now completely protected, shelters have been

cut into the rock and other defences such as artillery and anti-aircraft have been appreciably added to. Lord Gort has been appointed Governor of Gibralter—a move on the part of the British Government which has created a sensation in Gibraltar. Everything is being done to render Gibraltar a hard nut for Hitler to crack.

Meanwhile, the Democracies are confident about ultimate victory. In an interview at a press conference, President Roosevelt stated that "the current war can only be won by keeping the defence of democracy going—and that is by the defence of England." "The war," he pointed out "could not be won by one sea fight or one retreat in Greece or even in the whole Mediterranean." This point was explained by General Smuts in a remarkable statement which he made three days later. Germany is certainly winning victories, he said, but she is at the same time losing the war. The American giant has been roused from his slumbers. He is confident that great as is the help which is being given by America, she would be doing much more in future and added "Not in the Balkans but in the West and perhaps in the Far East the war will be finally fought out. This mortal struggle may be long, will certainly be hard, but our cause is right and we fight in the conviction of a final victory." It is not without significance that the Gallup Poll, a periodical test of American opinion, reveals that a striking majoirty of those approached are for direct participation in the present war!

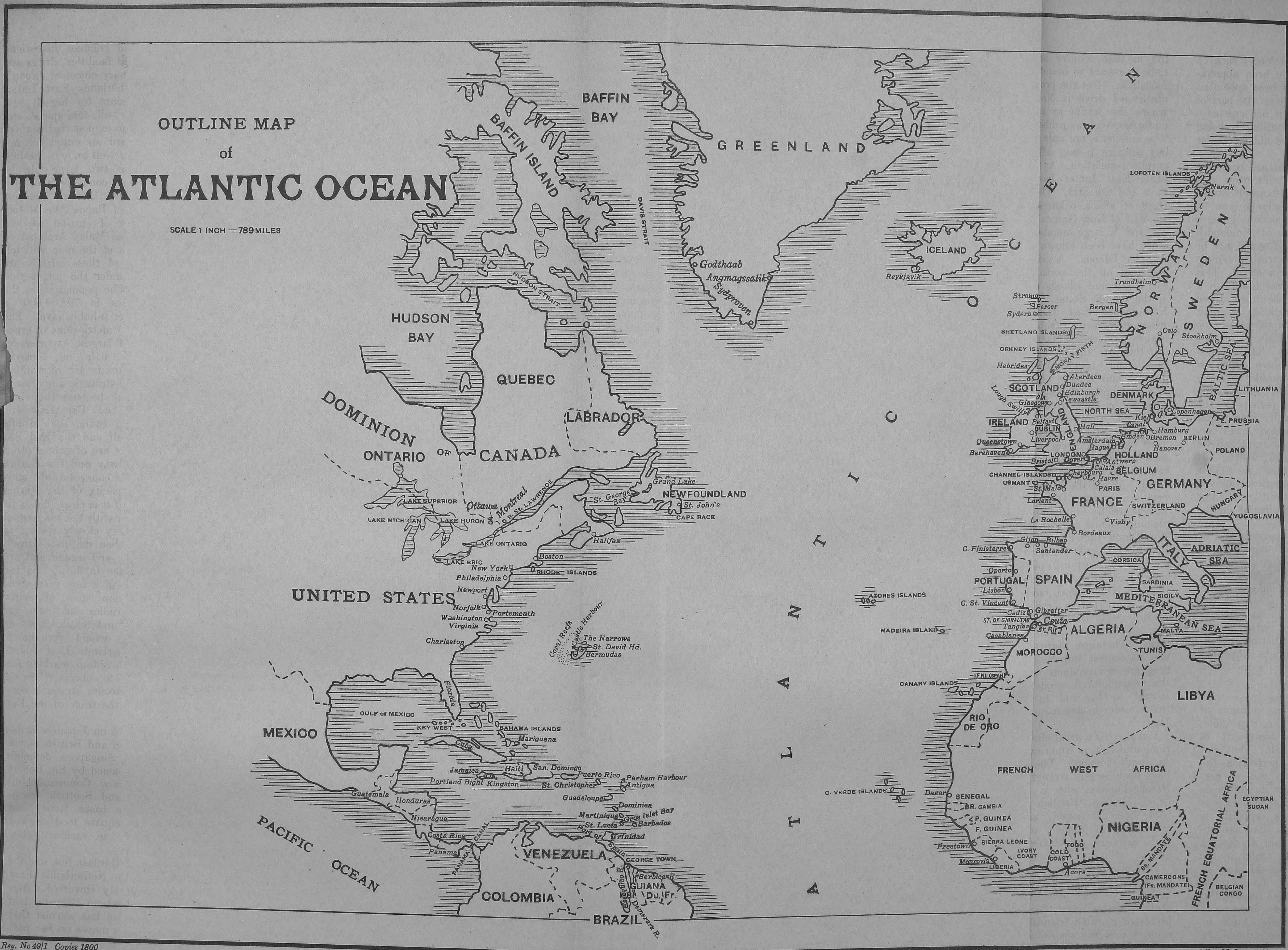
So long as Great Britain is in command of the seas, so long as Germany is frustrated in invading her, so long again as America sees to it that the tools which Mr. Churchill wants are given in the only way in which they could be given, that is by taking suitable measures that the tools, as the British Prime Minister said, reached England, so long further as the air-power is being constantly strengthened, so that supremacy in the air may be attained—and that is not far off—victory for the Allies is certain.

THE FAR EAST

Mr. Matsuoka has become an admirer of German methods. He would like, if possible, to institute a German-like treatment of Japan's national life from today; but has Japan not copied almost to perfection the Nazi method of conducting a 'war of nerves'? Thailand is now under its influence and she has secured considerable concessions from Indo-China, but Japan's appetite is ever-increasing. She complains that French-Indo-China has not perceived that its destiny lies in fitting in with the New Order in the East, that is by becoming a vassal state of Japan. A Japanese newspaper has warned Indo-China to amend its ways and remove the restrictions placed on Japanese firms. It appears that air bases are being built in North Indo-China and that investigations are being made for new fields. A Japanese mission will soon survey all aspects of colonial life in that country and conduct investigations in regard to hospital facilities, drugs and foodstuffs. But the primary object of Japan's southward drive is Netherlands East Indies where she wants to secure for herself raw materials, such as rubber, oil, tea, spices, etc. The mission is not only to exploit that country but colonize it and afford an outlet for her surplus population. As is well known, Netherlands East Indies have two large islands, Java and Sumatra. Then come Borneo, one-third of which belongs to Britain, Celebes, one-half of New Guinea of Papua, the Moluccas and a large number of smaller islands. They have been known as Malay Archipelago or Spice Islands. A look at the map will tell you that on the north of these islands are the Philippine islands under the jurisdiction of the United States. The population of the Netherlands East Indies is 70,000,000 of whom the greater number inhabit Java. The islands produce 7,500,000 metric tons of crude oil, they are the second largest exporters of cane sugar, besides tea, palm oil, tobacco, quinine and spices. Bauxite for aluminium is also found. Of their strategic importance it is unnecessary to speak because they provide the link between the Far East and Southern Asia, including India, the Middle East *via* the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea and Europe itself. There are of course other routes, the Siberian Railway and the Burma Road. While the former connects only with northern Europe, the capacity of the Burma road is strictly limited and it is clear that both are uneconomic compared with the sea-routes. The Dutch Indies are very closely related to India which gave them their culture. Hindu thought and custom, epic and legend and art have found a resting place in Java. So far as trade is concerned, until a few years ago, India imported a million tons of sugar annually from the East Indies and India can now supply steel, cotton and textile goods to them. Therefore Japan would very much like to control the Netherlands East Indies to secure raw products, to obtain markets for the manufactured goods, to obtain "living space" for her and to secure strategic control in order to dominate the trade of the Far East.

But there is a great check on Japanese ambitions and that is American and British power in south Pacific. The Singapore defences have been largely strengthened by Sir Robert Brooke-Popham who is now Commander-in-Chief. Indian, English and Scottish troops have been stationed, air bases have been established in jungles, adequate food stocked and defences established in various other places.

Japanese moves during the last few months to secure influence in the Netherlands East Indies have been effectively thwarted. Recently Australia with whom Japan had professed genuine friendship has warned that country that any suspicious moves on her part to secure control and extend her influence would be promptly and effectively countered.



Reg. No 49/1 Copies 1800

Heliozinco., Survey Office, Madras. 1941

THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

AMERICA'S GROWING HELP TO BRITAIN

In a broadcast from Capetown last week, that far-seeing statesman General Smuts said "We have gained a new ally, of all the most powerful and worth having in the whole world. With the United States of America and all its goodwill and vast resources behind us, we may indeed look forward to the end with steadfast confidence. For this, we have to thank Hitler who has roused the American giant from his slumber. Hence the re-election of President Roosevelt, hence the Lease and Lend Act, hence the firm and unshakeable alignment of all responsible American opinion on the side of the Allies. More will follow. America will yet go all the way".

That Hitler realizes that Great Britain and the Commonwealth cannot be beaten as long as their lines of communication are open is evident from his renewed attacks on ships in the Atlantic Ocean as well as in his attempt to bottle up the British Navy in the Mediterranean Sea. In the latter he has failed so far despite his successes on the Balkans seaboard. It does not appear either that he will succeed in the future. The British Army of the Nile bars his way from Libya to the Suez Canal. The British conquest of Italian East Africa has resulted in the capture of Massawa, the Red Sea port. And President Roosevelt has declared the Red Sea a "non-combatant" area under the provisions of the American Neutrality Act and he is permitting American ships to carry arms and other supplies direct to the Middle East.

The Atlantic remains, in the words of Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, the decisive theatre of war. It is here that Hilter has launched a threefold attack on British ships, carrying supplies from America, by U-boats, surface raiders and bombing aircraft based on the French coastal regions. He is also bringing pressure to bear on Spain and Portugal in an effort not only to neutralize the strength of the British base in Gibraltar but to get naval and air bases of his own in the Iberian Peninsula.

SHIPPING POSITION

Mr. Churchill has made no attempt to minimize the gravity of the Battle of the Atlantic, which is being waged with growing intensity on both sides. The periodic publication of the shipping losses has also served to attract attention to the great battle going on in that vast stretch of ocean day and night. It is a long drawn-out struggle, which must continue for months and entail continuous sacrifice and endurance on the part of the Mercantile Marine, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. Britain has lost nearly four million tons of shipping in the war and in their place has gained three million tons of foreign or newly constructed ships. At the prevailing rate of losses, this gap—at present small—will widen with the passage of time and may cause a sensible contraction of the war effort in 1942. The weapons of sea power and industrial strength, which "work silently and gradually" are Britain's reply to Hitler and these must be kept intact.

Measures to meet the situation are : (1) building of merchant ships on a considerable scale; (2) acceleration of the turn-round of ships in the ports at which they have landed their cargo; (3) supplies of ships from America; and (4) intensification of anti-submarine measures. As far as Britain is concerned, work on her ship-building yards is steadily going on in the face of organized raids by the German air force; and new labour regulations have come into force, ensuring quick unloading and turn-round of ships at British ports.

As far as the supply of American ships is concerned, the Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission has announced that 950 merchantmen as well as 913 naval craft have actually been ordered from United States Naval yards for Britain and that America is prepared to hand over 2½ million tons of shipping, if necessary. It is now clear that America is making a shipbuilding effort comparable to that which finally broke the Germans in 1918.

The United States has also seized nearly a hundred ships, belonging to Denmark, Italy and Germany and lying in American ports, in order to save them from scuttling and sabotage. Legislation is about to be undertaken, authorizing the President to requisition and purchase all foreign vessels lying idle in the United States harbours and, if he thinks it essential, to hand them over to Britain. Despite German and Italian protests against the seizure of Axis ships, it is generally recognized that America's action is justified in international law. In fact, Italy took a similar step against Germany during the Great War when she was ostensibly the latter's ally and before she entered the war against her.

On the subject of anti-submarine measures, Mr. Churchill is right in saying that "the defeat of U-boats and surface raiders has been proved to be entirely a question of adequate escorts for convoys." True, the Royal Air Force has been systematically raiding Brest, L'Orient and other naval bases of the enemy, from which submarines go out on their nefarious expeditions and from which the battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisanau* have ventured out far into the Atlantic to attack unarmed ships. But the real battle must of necessity take place in the Atlantic itself. A recent despatch told us that fifty German U-boat officers and considerably more than 400 German petty officers and men were prisoners of war in Britain. The number of U-boats operating in the Atlantic has lately been large and British counter-measures have also met with correspondingly greater success.

BASES FOR DESTROYERS DEAL

But when all is said and done, Britain's Navy is now doing the work that five allied navies accomplished in the last war and the strain on her destroyer fleet has been great. That America has recognized this fact is evident not only in her handing over to Britain early this year of ten fast revenue cutters of 2,000 tons each, well armed and long-ranged, which are excellent vessels for vast convoy work, but in last year's famous deal by which she gave to Britain 50 technically "over age" destroyers in exchange for leaseholds on eight British base-sites in the Atlantic. The trade in destroyers was timely; they were not useless hulks as the German Radio falsely made out. Most of them were completed after the last war and some did not become over-age (16 years old) until 1938. Small (314 feet; 1,190 tons), lightly gunned and fast (35 knots), they were ideally suited to the work to which the British have put them—long-range, convoy and patrol.

Even more reassuring was the acquisition of the base-sites by America. It proved that the United States was trying to implement the declaration of the Congress of American Republics at Panama that 300 and not three miles was the limit of American territorial waters. The deal also announced to the world that the United States was determined to stop Hitler in the Atlantic. American strategists were of the opinion that in these bases the United States had obtained the equivalent of five new battleships or 2,500 airplanes or an army corps; but the moral and psychological effect on world opinion was immeasurably greater. These eight bases are located in Newfoundland, Bermuda, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad and British Guiana. "Newfoundland's harbour-dented southern coast is ice-free and open to navigation the year round," says an American journal, discussing the possibilities of the bases. "That coast and Avalon Peninsula harbours can base destroyers, submarines, flying boats. Bermuda's reef-bound Great Sound can base United States seaplanes, destroyers, submarines for patrol well beyond mid-Atlantic. The Bahamas will be useful for secondary patrol plane bases; with others in the chain, should give the United States absolute command of two Caribbean entrances: Florida Strait and the Windward Passage. Jamaica, now a minor British naval-fueling station, has a fine harbour at Kingston; can be developed as a secondary base for United States patrol planes, submarines, destroyers, cruisers. Antigua and St. Lucia guard the Anegada Passage and Windward Island approaches to the Caribbean; will be valuable as intermediate patrol plane and submarine bases. Trinidad locks the hitherto open southern gateway to the Caribbean. With a good harbour at Port-of-Spain, it may become a secondary fortified fleet-base; will certainly be a major base for long-range patrol planes (sea and land). British Guiana will probably serve air-craft and lighter naval vessels; will make safe a vital source of bauxite (aluminium ore)".

The preliminary lease agreement was signed on September 2 last and the final agreement on March 30. It was intended, as *The Times* put it, as a barter agreement, in which the value of destroyers was set off against that of the bases without the need to weigh any nice question of pounds, shillings and pence, which it was even then felt—as it has since been recognized more and more—was inappropriate between two countries, each of whom has a vital interest in the defence of the other. The expenditure of billions of dollars "effectively and efficiently" on developing these bases is making the United States Navy "the most powerful protective force in the world" claimed Col. Frank Knox, the Secretary of the Navy, in February last. The United States was fortunate, he said, in having a "ring" of naval bases stretching from Newfoundland through the islands of the Atlantic, around the Pacific to the Aleutian Islands and across 2,100 miles of open ocean to Hawaii, the Gibraltar of the Pacific, and out to Midway and Johnston Islands. And it must not be forgotton that Britain has given a formal assurance to America that in the most unlikely event of Britain being occupied by the enemy forces, her formidable navy will not surrender but sail straight to America and fight the enemy from the bases there.

United States has already sent troops to garrison Port of Spain and Bermuda and is pushing on with the development of the other bases. Indeed, she has gone further and acquired the right to establish naval and military air bases in Greenland and thus facilitate the maintenance of the shipping links with Britain and the flying of short-range war planes across the Atlantic. This agreement was entered into with the Danish Minister in Washington, "acting on behalf of the King of Denmark in his capacity as the Sovereign of Greenland, whose authorities in Greenland have concurred therein." The United States has rejected the protest of the German-controlled Government of Denmark but has made clear that Danish sovereignty over Greenland is fully recognized and that the Island will be restored to Denmark after the war.

BASES IN GREENLAND

Greenland first came into prominence just a year ago when Germany occupied Denmark. The United States then took the same action as it took later with regard to the French possessions in the West Indies; it declared that it would not permit any change of ownership in foreign-controlled American territory without its consent. The present agreement, allowing the United States to establish naval and air bases in Greenland, is parallel to the lease of bases by Britain to America and the recent agreements made by the United States with Panama and Mexico for the joint control of bases in those countries. All

these actions are in line with the Monroe Doctrine, which lays down that the United States will not permit European powers to interfere in the American continent, and with the decisions of the Congress of American Republics at Havana, which provided "for material co-operation in the defence of North and South America". Greenland occupies an important position in the Battle of the Atlantic. Though mainly ice and snowbound from September to April, it has, during the summer, harbours and land which can be used for airfields. It is about 800 miles from Newfoundland and about 250 miles from Iceland; the latter colony of Denmark which has already been taken over by Great Britain for the duration of the war, is in its turn about 650 miles from Scottish ports. Together, Greenland and Iceland will form stepping stones by the help of which short-range aircraft could be flown to Britain instead of being carried by sea; and convoys could also be escorted in easy stages. Indeed the United States decided to take over the protection of Greenland only on learning that German troops had been flying over Greenland territory. The agreement again will be of considerable benefit to Britain because, like all the newly acquired United States bases, the Greenland bases will be available to Canada as one of the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Once the United States builds its bases in Greenland, the plan of establishing a Northern shipping route to the limits of the Western Hemisphere, kept free of Axis raiders by American Neutrality Patrols operating from Greenland and Newfoundland as well as from United States ports, becomes a practical proposition. The preliminary step which is being urged on the United States Administration is to declare open all ports in the Western Hemisphere from which American vessels are now banned by the Neutrality Act. It is obviously ludicrous, it is declared, that United States ships cannot call at ports such as Halifax in Canada owing to possible belligerent activities when Halifax is within the Western Hemisphere and the so-called "safety zone" laid down by the Panama Conference of Pan-American States must be theoretically free of belligerent acts.

The development of these United States bases as well as the building of new ships must take some time. What is now urgently required is the provision of adequate escorts for ships in convoy. Here progressive American opinion is in advance even of the President's though two members of the Administration have now spoken out with refreshing and welcome vigour and Mr. Roosevelt, too, has given an unqualified affirmative answer to the query whether they spoke for him. As Mr. J. L. Garvin says "A world issue depends on the Battle of the Atlantic. That issue depends absolutely on American effort and American policy . . . This emergency is stirring the American people to their depths. When full action of the American Navy to guard convoys is ensured, the irresistible rise of the confederate democracies to overwhelming air mastery will do the rest . . . The Nazis are at the height of their effort; the democracies have to come to it. Awakened to supreme decisions by the final warning, Britain and America will make good by the doggedness of our breed and the tenacity of theirs."

UNITED STATES' CONVOYS FOR SHIPS.

A strong hint that the United States would convoy supply ships to Britain and her Allies was given by Col. Knox late last week. "Having gone thus far, we can only go on", he said; "We must make good our promises to give aid to Britain. We must see the job through." The Secretary of the United States Navy was right in emphasising that "Hitler cannot allow our war supplies and food to reach England—he will be defeated if they do. We cannot allow our goods to be sunk in the Atlantic—we shall be beaten if they are."

Colonel Knox referred to "an America gradually becoming encircled by military powers whose ideals, institutions and methods are all irreconcilably antagonistic to ours", and added, "These same powers have also openly and repeatedly proclaimed themselves our enemies and these openly-avowed enemies have joined themselves together in a Pact which, they do not hesitate to say, is aimed at us alone. Whenever, in the judgment of the Axis powers, it better suits their purpose to begin hostilities, the hostilities will begin and nothing we can do, save prostrating ourselves in abject surrender, will change this. There is no retracing our steps. We have committed ourselves to this world struggle. If we attempt to back out, England will go down in a catastrophic defeat and we would face a world-wide victorious Germany and her allies whom we should have to fight alone. We have declared that aggressor nations must not be permitted to win. We have irrevocably committed ourselves to see that this is prevented and we have acknowledged that our destiny—just as much as the destiny of the British Empire and the ultimate destiny of the conquered people of the Low Countries, Scandinavia, France and the Balkans—is at stake."

This outspoken declaration has been reinforced by a broadcast by Mr. Cordell Hull, the United States Secretary of State. He came out strongly against any attempt to make peace now, declaring that peace with Axis powers would be "nothing more than a trap." He declared "It is high time the remaining free countries should arm to the fullest extent in the briefest time humanly possible and act for their self-preservation." The United States, he pointed out, is certainly included in the Axis plans for world domination. It makes a difference who wins, the difference of whether we stand with our back to the wall, with the other four continents against us and the high seas lost, alone, defending the last free territories on earth, or whether we keep our place in an orderly world." Mr. Hull ridiculed the argument that because the Germans could not successfully cross the Channel, they could not successfully cross the Atlantic. "The reason the English Channel has not been

successfully crossed is because forty million determined Britons, in heroic resistance, have converted their island into a huge armed base, from which proceeds a steady stream of sea and air power. It is not water that bars the way, it is the determination of British sea-power and British arms. Were control of the seas by the resisting nations to be lost, the Atlantic would no longer be an obstacle—it would become a broad highway for the conqueror moving westward." The Secretary of State concluded "Ways must be found to ensure that aid to Britain reaches its destination in the shortest time and at the maximum capacity."

And finally the President of the United States, leaving the question of convoys alone, has declared that American Neutrality Patrols will operate "as far into the waters of the seven seas as might be necessary" and that United States warships would enter combat zones, if necessary in the interests of the defence of the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Roosevelt, after attacking all those appeasers who would make peace with the Axis, said last week that for a year and a half Neutrality Patrol vessels had been operating as far as a thousand miles from the Atlantic eastern shore. The Maryland Patrol had been extended and would continue to be extended from time to time. The President defined a patrol as a reconnaissance of an area to find if there were any aggression ship entering or approaching the Western Hemisphere. He compared the Neutrality Patrols to the American scouts of the pioneer days, who warned covered wagon caravans of the approach of Red Indian enemies, indicating that American warships ranging the Atlantic would similarly warn the British. President Roosevelt appeared to be purposely enigmatic when he parried questions about convoys but the general impression he gave was that American Neutrality Patrols would be extended further and further into the Atlantic. Later, the President said that the area of combat activities delineated by Germany round the British Isles had nothing to do with United States warships. They could go into it, if necessary for the defence of the Western Hemisphere, though it did not mean that they were actually doing so now. It is well understood that for political reasons President Roosevelt did not make any definite statement. At the same time everyone in Washington realizes that convoys are the only way by which American undertakings to Britain can be fully carried out if sinkings in the Atlantic continue at the present rate. As the United States Ambassador to the Argentine has put it, it is safe to assume that having devoted their strength and resources to produce planes, ships and munitions, the American people are not going to permit them to rust on the shores of the United States or rest at the bottom of the Atlantic.

MR. CHURCHILL'S BROADCAST

Little surprise that Mr. Churchill, in his broadcast on Sunday last, after paying a striking tribute to the "wonderful exertions" made "by our men on the high seas, by the hundreds of minesweeping vessels, which with their marvellous appliances keep our ports clear in spite of all that the enemy can do; by the men who build and repair our immense fleets of merchant and naval ships; by the men who load and unload; and, need I say, by the officers and men of the Merchant Navy of the country, in all weather and in the face of grave dangers", went on to record his "indescribable relief" at "the tremendous decision lately taken by the President and people of the United States." The Prime Minister said, "American fleet and flying boats have been ordered to patrol the wide waters of the Western Hemisphere and warn peaceful shipping of all nations outside the combat zone of the presence of lurking U-boats and raiders belonging to the aggressor nations. We, the British, will therefore be able to concentrate our protecting forces far more upon the routes nearer home to take a far heavier toll of the U-boats there. As I told you, something like this was bound to happen. The President and the Congress of the United States of America, who have newly fortified themselves by contact with their electors, have solemnly pledged their aid to Britain in this war because they deem our cause just and because they know their own interests and safety would be in danger if we were destroyed. They are taxing themselves heavily, they have passed legislation and turned a large part of their gigantic industries to making the ammunition which we need. They have given us all this and other valuable assistance. I cannot believe that they will allow the effort to which they have put themselves to be frustrated and the products of their skill and labour sunk to the bottom of the sea."

The Prime Minister's broadcast has evoked swift response in America. President Roosevelt has asked the United States Maritime Commission to obtain the service of "at least two million tons of merchant shipping to be used to supply all-out aid to the Democracies". In a letter to the Chairman of the Commission, the President indicates that cargo ships of all types may be taken from existing or proposed trade routes to haul vital war supplies and food overseas. He also says that the United States Merchant Navy must be extended faster than planned so that more ships will become available to carry food and munitions of war to the Democracies of the world. The President says he fully realizes that diversion of ships from their usual routes will cause great inconvenience and loss of trade as well as sacrifices by the consuming public "but vital war materials are piling up in these ports or are delayed at the factories. We must supply these ships at once. I am sure owners will gladly co-operate in this essential enterprise." And the Maritime Commission has already ordered fifty oil tankers to be placed in special service to aid Britain within the next few days. These will carry oil from South American countries to North Atlantic ports where the oil will be transferred to British vessels. It is also stated that Britain is to get surplus foreign ships seized in American ports, that is, those which are not needed by the United States or the South American Republics.

TO-DAY IN LONDON

EXPERIENCES OF A LADY WORKER

It is remarkable, and this fact has been testified to by numerous neutral observers, that the peophle of England, men, women and children are standing bravely to the *blitzkrieg* and its consequences. The common suffering has promoted social harmony and greatly developed the spirit of social service and neighbourliness. The following is a graphic account of the experiences of the wife of an English I.C.S. Officer now in England. We are publishing this narrative through the courtesy of a lady friend to whom the letter was addressed from London.

"Where shall I begin to tell you of all the things that have been happening here? The facts you know from your wireless.

"It tells much but not everything. It gives, however, a very just account and the things it does not tell are things that would help the enemy. It certainly does not minimize our losses or seek to delude or misrepresent. That I can say quite surely.

"What it cannot tell is how these months have seemed to the individual and how it is affecting us. At the end of four months in London, working in the dock area of the East End, I can say that we have taken the shock and nothing can now defeat us unless we are one and all exterminated. We have settled down to this peculiar existence. We take it as a matter of course, that we shall sleep in shelters or basements or cellars, that meals, plentiful and of unimpaired quality, shall be eaten when and where we can get them; that we shall work all day harder than we have ever worked; that we shall see no friends, have no outside amusements, but returning at dark, retire to our cellar and stay there till it is time to get ready for work next morning. Planes droning overhead like a swarm of locusts, bombs dropping all round one, and guns firing with deafening roar from the street outside are now the normal accompaniment of one's nights and they no longer keep one awake. If a specially near one crashes loudly one may stir, thinking 'Thank God that one missed us', turn over and go to sleep again. A quiet night without an alert makes one more uneasy, it is so uncanny. This is no 'bit of writing', it is exactly how we feel. That is, if one is lucky. If one isn't lucky and is bombed or blasted, well, it is just too bad.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICE

"Obviously no amateur nurses were needed in London. Within an hour of my registering I was asked to go down to Poplar where they were clamouring for help as the *blitz* had hit that district first and hardest (the docks). I soon found myself up to the ears in work and being given charge of the reclothing of the borough. It was in a hell of a mess as you can imagine every one, needy and scroungers alike, beseiging for clothes. Parcels of second-hand stuff coming by the hundred, no check on anything and heaps of unsorted clothing clean, soiled and filthy, good, bad and indifferent, lace, ball dresses mixed up with dirty underclothing, men's evening coats and plus fours and ragged shirts. Too much of some things and not enough of others, people half naked and pathetically grateful for anything, sleek well dressed Jews storming because they could not get new clothes. Families of seven and eight all to be clothed somehow with queues storming at the doors. Scroungers coming back again and again, hoping they would not be recognized.

"Gradually the rush subsided, we got things straightened out and I took over charge. Insisted on cheques and card indexes and vouchers for all incoming and outgoing stuff. Got the number of enthusiastic but utterly useless helpers weeded out, trained the few good ones and now it is running smoothly and when we have bad bombings there we are ready and equipped to deal with them. We not only clothe those who come to the town hall but we supply the rest centres where the bombed-out go to live till they get new accommodation. We also run working parties to make new garments and to mend old. I have got quite a nice little band of local women who are enthusiastic to help their own people. They tell me that the best thing I have done is to get the local women keen and loyal. One woman tells me she wanted her husband to take her away when the *blitz* began there she was so frightened. Now nothing would move her, and she grudges the time she has to spend in doing her husband's cooking and washing and mending. She admits it has changed her whole outlook having this work to do, so I have made her my second in command and she is almost bursting with pride and importance and is extremely efficient. That is one fault I had to find with the Women's Voluntary Service. It was too West-end. It did not incorporate the local talent sufficiently. The clothing is my special department but I also help with the rest of the work which it does in Poplar. We administer Poplar's share of the Mayor's fund for giving extra relief over and above or beyond the scope of what Government can do. We find billets for evacuating babies under five and old people who do not come under any Government scheme. We help people to find work and equip them for it. We help to ease the difficulties of separated families, and thousands of other cases that are really nobody's business. Besides that we run a late night canteen for the A.R.P. workers, run a mobile canteen for rescue workers in night raids, organize and superintend shelter feeding, etc.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

"The American Red Cross have been very very generous to us. They give us an almost endless supply of garments (and some difficult to persuade our conservative Eastenders to wear, such as union suits, knicker-bockers and women's combinations with long legs and long sleeves!) but magnificent pullovers, boots, shoes, overcoats, dresses and a lot of wool and materials for us to have made up.

They have been most generous in money too. I must tell you a story of our Poplar centre. A party from the American Red Cross came down to see our work and said they'd like to give us a donation. We had to tell them that Women's Voluntary Service didn't have any funds of their own (we are attached to the Home Office and Government supplied our office expenses), but that if they liked to give a donation to the Mayor of Poplar, we could administer it for him. They asked how much we'd like and swallowing hard and hoping we'd be forgiven we boldly up and said a thousand pounds. They said "all right" and we sighed with joy. Presently along came the cheque which the office duly acknowledged. Back came a letter from the American Red Cross saying had we examined the cheque because it was for seven thousand not for one thousand—complete passing-out of the Women's Voluntary Service, Poplar!

AMERICAN SYMPATHY AND HELP

"And now we have Roosevelt's grand speech to Congress. He has managed things marvellously, never pressing the people further than they could go at the moment. We never doubted Roosevelt's sympathy but whether he could carry the nation with him was the question. His re-election was a great relief here, for whatever Willkie might have been, Roosevelt we knew and trusted. In him we knew we had a friend. I hope America will not have to come in as a military power. At present she is of far more use to us as an arsenal. What warms our hearts at the moment of his great speech is the knowledge that America realizes we are fighting for her too, and that if we cannot pay in cash we are paying in lives and suffering, in the devastation of our homes and great ancient buildings. We offer these our battered cities, our broken bodies and our ruined lives, our severed families, our little homes built up over years gone in one crash (a land mine wrecked five hundred the other night in Poplar) in exchange for the materials of defence that America can give us. Is it not a better exchange than cash? It is with great thankfulness that we see that America is realizing this, and that she is backing us to the limit.

UPLIFTING OF SPIRIT

"You know, horrible and awful as this is, it will be, I think, the saving of the world. Already here in England it has shaken us out of the soul destroying lethargy and smugness and false values. I keep saying to the people down in Poplar who have lost their little all, 'what do possessions matter? If you have your life and your health, you can get together a better home than you had before and we'll help you to it.' And to those who fear moving out to new places I say 'How dull to live always in one place, what a grand chance to see other places, making new friends, and what tales to tell to a new audience' and they begin to think it's rather an adventure as living dangerously always is. The sap is rising; we see it like that here. A new adventure to be bombed day and night, a triumph if we can escape them, a martyrdom if we cannot, a sacrifice in a great cause. The spirit uplifts the whole nation and we fear nothing. Nothing but extermination can get us down and we are proud and glad to suffer. Don't pity us or fear for us. We have no fear and the ones who need the pity are those who are not fortunate enough to be here in the thick of it.

"My peace of mind here and my complete happiness are in sharp contrast to the agony of those months in India when I had not wholly accepted the tragedy of the war, when I saw from outside the wicked waste and was full of fear, so far away and so ignorant of what might be happening here. Now I see quite clearly that like the Crucifixion it was necessary for the regeneration of mankind. We were so *bloody* selfish and greedy and jealous of our privileges and so afraid of others filching them from us. There will be, there must be, a regeneration but that can only come after purification by suffering. This is not cant. I know it from my own experience, but the suffering must make the spirit strong. It is no virtue in itself just to have suffered, unless it leads us on to fight afterwards for a better world. I am thinking aloud as it were. As I talk to some one so, I find out what I believe and you are the recipient."

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

A Goebbels Chestnut Re-roasted

When the German attack on Greece was in full swing, Dr. Goebbels re-commenced his old tactics of trying to sow dissension between the Greeks and their British allies. There was no new line of propaganda, of course—Berlin started it as long ago as the outset of the Italian invasion of Greece, when the Nazi radio was full of prophecies that "Britain would let Greece down." On that occasion, the effect was somewhat spoilt by the Rome radio, which (in order to explain away Italy's heavy defeats) was soon asserting that Greece's air force and artillery, as well as the direction of the Greek war-effort, was entirely British!

Undeterred by that earlier set-back, Berlin declared on April 13 that the appointment of Sir Henry Maitland Wilson to command the British forces in Greece, and the departure of Mr. Eden and General Dill to Britain. meant that the British were "preparing for the betrayal of Greece and for another Dunkirk."

Berlin ignored the obvious fact that the regular headquarters of the British Foreign Minister and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff is London, not Cairo or Athens. These two officials had spent several weeks in the Near and Middle East, holding important and fruitful conferences not only with their own colleagues on the spot, but also with Greek, Yugoslav, Turkish and Egyptian representatives. What more natural than that, their task completed, they should return to London—especially since (as Berlin itself is always proclaiming) the decisive struggle of the war will be fought in the West, and not in the Middle East?

African Hazards

There has been a good deal of wishful thinking in the German radio comments on the North African situation this week. Thus, on April 14, Berlin said: "Both Benghazi and Bardia having been occupied by German and Italian troops, all the gain of General Wavell's offensive has been lost by the British".

This dictum leaves out of account the fact the General Wavell's primary object was not the occupation of Cyrenaica, but the destruction of the vast Italian army which Marshal Graziani had assembled on the Egyptian frontier. That objective was completely achieved, and the very fact that the Germans have had to rush so many troops into Tripolitania reveals how crushing was the defeat inflicted on the Italians. Enormous Italian losses in man-power, including at least 170,000 men taken prisoner, together with vast quantities of weapons, stores and ammunition, are some of the gains of General Wavell's Libyan advance which have not been lost by the British.

Moreover, the Wavell offensive had two phases—in Italian East Africa, as well as in Libya. Discreetly enough, Berlin says nothing about Mussolini's losses (and Britain's gains) in Somaliland, Eritrea and Abyssinia, as a result of which President Roosevelt has now declared the Red Sea open to American shipping loaded with supplies for the Allies.

Goebbels' Nightmare

On April 15, the Berlin radio announced rather naively: "The last remnants of the British Expeditionary Force in North Africa have concentrated in a harbour town, which they are defending until embarkation operations are carried out." Dr. Goebbels seems to have embarkation and disembarkation on the brain—perhaps because he has not yet been able to announce the embarkation of the German Expeditionary Force for Britain; but the above announcement is simply a tactful way of admitting that the Italo-German troops had not so far succeeded in taking Tobruk—a mix-up in the Axis time-table for which Berlin had not allowed.

As for those "last remnants of the British Expeditionary Force in North Africa," Rome could have told Berlin quite definitely that not all of them by any means were "concentrated in a harbour town"—and German troops were to find this out for themselves very soon, when they tried in vain to advance beyond El Sollum.

Tobruk Untaken

Two days later, Goebbels felt strong enough to mention Tobruk by name. "The position of the British Troops there," he announced on April 17, "is hopeless, but perhaps they will be evacuated by sea"—embarkation again! But even he cannot explain how, if the British troops could still be evacuated by sea, their position could also be "hopeless."

Meanwhile, the Tobruk garrison, which is now known to include Indian troops, appears to be in no hurry to embark. Throughout the past week they have been repulsing with great success both German and Italian attacks by tanks, infantry and warplanes, and very heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy. They have also made a number of successful counter-attacks—not an operation usually carried out by troops whose position is "hopeless."

The Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain—which is so rapidly becoming the Battle of Germany as well—has also been giving Goebbels a good deal of trouble lately. On April 16, his wireless

announced that, while the R.A.F. had to pay dearly for any attempt to enter occupied territory by day, the *Luftwaffe* was continuing its successful bombing activity over Britain in broad daylight.

This statement represents almost the exact opposite of the truth. On four days out of the seven immediately preceding April 16, not a single German bomb fell on the British Isles by daylight, and only very slight raiding activity was reported during the remaining three days. On the other hand, the R.A.F.'s daylight programme for that week included raids on industrial objectives in the Ruhr, naval, air and military installations on Borkum Island, the battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* at Brest, factories, railways, power stations and other targets in Norway, Denmark, Holland and France, and the usual routine attacks on enemy shipping. In all these operations, the R.A.F. lost five bombers and two fighters—not a heavy price for a week's highly successfull daylight activities.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Mr. Spender on Hitler's Programme

The Nazis' Hindustani and Arabic broadcasts of April 16 misquoted the B.B.C. as having stated that the Australian Army Minister, Mr. P. C. Spender, had said, "Since France's defeat, Britain is in a miserable predicament." This is only typical of how the Nazis invent what they call news. What Mr. Spender said was that the Empire was about to pass through her greatest test since the collapse of France. Mr. Spender also added : " Hitler is staking his all on the next six months but, when we have ridden the storm, he will be doomed."

British Fighting Qualities

Dr. Geobbels' Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of April 14 referred to an Athens report which, according to the Nazis, stated that a ship carrying British military experts had reached Greece. They were, said Berlin, experts in carrying out retreats. The British fighting quality was demonstrated on April 11, when a British infantry repulsed an attack by the crack S.S. Adolf Hitler division in North Greece. The German's desire to wage the Balkan campaign without having to reckon with British resistance explains their spiteful propaganda.

The All-eating Herrenvolk Spider

The Nazi broadcast in Hindustani, Persian and Arabic stated on April 17, that the Norwegians still remember how the British deceived them last year by withdrawing from Norway. The fact, however, is that despite this alleged " deception," the Norwegians still work and hope for a British victory. As Mr. Johan Nygardsvold, the Norwegian Prime Minister, recently stated, " Norway has but one programme—to liberate the country from foreign rule and rid her of Quisling and his men, who have sold Norway into slavery."

The Norwegians understand only too well the German ideal of a new Europe. To mention only some aspects of the daily depredations going on, most of the meat, butter and eggs in the country has been requisitioned by the Germans, the all-eating Herrenvolk spider, and no less than Rs. 75 crores have been withdrawn already from banks in Norway for the expenses of the German army of occupation.

" London Can take It "

On April 17, the German broadcasts in Hindustani, Persian and Arabic conveniently quoted an unnamed London correspondent of an Argentine paper as stating that the British are " trembling in fear like a delicate stick." The United States of America's new Ambassador in England, Mr. John Winant, who toured the London districts after the worst raid that city had experienced, recently paid a magnificent tribute to the courage of the people, ending up with the remarks " Now I know what ' London can take it ' means."

British Admiralty and Shipping Losses

On April 18, the Nazi radio broadcast an alleged comment of the *New York Times* stating that the British Admiralty's decision to publish shipping losses once a month instead of every week meant that the Battle of the Atlantic had taken a serious turn. Actually, however, the decision is due to the increasing difficulties of presenting accurate figures week by week. The reason for delay, of course, is that ships do not communicate with shore while *en route* for fear of betraying their position. The Nazi criticism of the British decision is particularly inept, because the German Government have never published their own shipping losses.

Nazi Concern for Newfoundland

Dr. Geobbels' Hindustani broadcast of April 16 published the fantastic statement that Mr. Churchill had sold Newfoundland to America. The German concern over Newfoundland becomes understandable when it is remembered that, with the existence of air bases in Newfoundland, Greenland and Iceland, the American short-range bombers could be flown to England. That alone is the reason why the Nazis are misrepresenting a straightforward commercial transaction.

It is true that the U.S.A. is establishing air bases in Newfoundland, but Britain has not surrendered her sovereignity over a single British subject and the islanders are only too proud to make their contribution towards the defeat of the common enemy.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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